Community Population Estimates

Northwest Territories - July 1, 2000

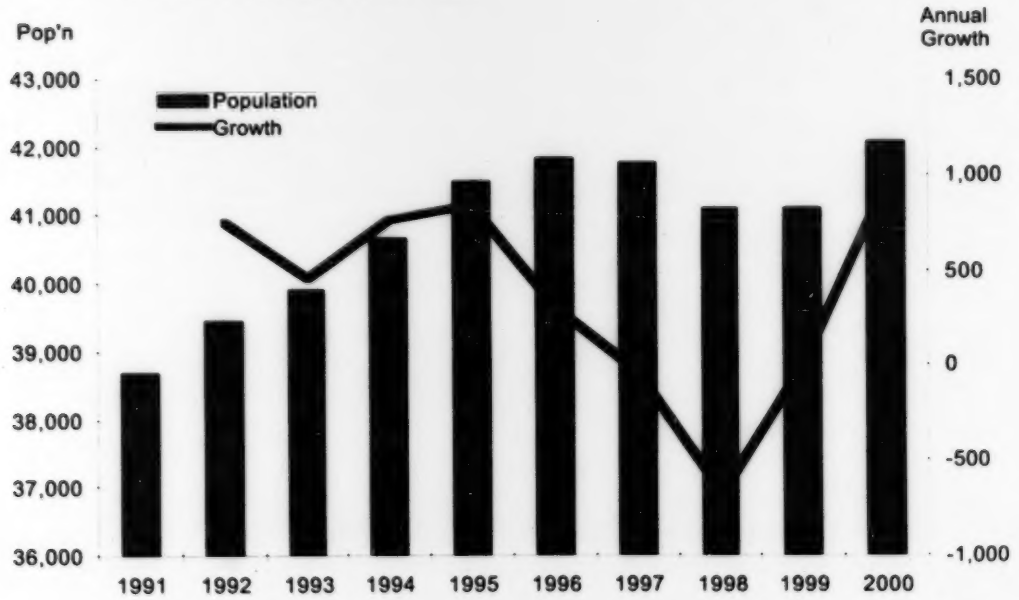
Detailed population estimates by age and sex for the Northwest Territories are produced annually by Statistics Canada. The NWT Bureau of Statistics uses these estimates, in combination with information from a variety of other sources to calculate detailed population estimates by age, sex and ethnicity for every community in the Northwest Territories. Previously released figures are revised annually to incorporate new information in the source files as well as revisions made by Statistics Canada to the territorial estimates. Information on the methodology used to develop these community population estimates can be found at the end of this document.

For further information on community population estimates and information by age, gender and ethnic group visit T-stat, the Bureau of Statistics' electronic dissemination system, at http://www.stats.gov.nt.ca.

Highlights

On July 1, 2000 the population of the Northwest Territories was 42,083 persons. The period from 1999 to 2000 represents the first significant growth in the population of the Northwest Territories over the past four years. A variety of factors including government downsizing and a slowdown in the gold mining industry resulted in population declines for the Northwest Territories during the 1996-97 and 1997-98 periods. The 1998-99 period saw the NWT population begin its recovery. Ongoing development in the diamond industry as well as oil and natural gas exploration have resulted in the population increases observed during the 1999-00 period.

Figure 1 Population & Annual Growth
Northwest Territories, 1991 – 2000



Examining the overall growth of 2.4% for the Northwest Territories during the 1999-00 period by type of community shows that the regional centers of Fort Smith, Hay River & Inuvik had the highest overall growth rate at 2.9%. The growth rate in Yellowknife is estimated at 2.6%, while the remaining smaller communities, less subject to the effects of interprovincial migration, had a growth rate of 1.6%.

Who is in the Population?

Population estimates produced by Statistics Canada and the NWT Bureau of Statistics include people in the population who are residents of the Northwest Territories and do not have a home elsewhere in Canada from which they are temporarily absent.

Therefore temporary residents such as construction crews and residents in mining camps are not included in the population estimates.

The most significant trend that continued to hold true during the 1999-00 period was the aging of the Northwest Territories population. Overall, the population 50 years of age and older grew by 5.5% during the period compared to a 1.7% growth rate for the population under 15 years of age. Since 1991 the proportion of the population 50 & older has increased from 10.5% to 15.0% of the total population. This compares to a decline from 28.7% to 27.5% for the population under 15 years of age.

Aboriginal persons as a proportion of the total population decreased slightly during the 1999-00 period to 50.7% from 50.8%. This slight decrease is a change from recent years as aboriginal persons as a proportion of the total population has been increasing steadily from 47.0% in 1991. The 1999-00 value is a direct result of the higher rates of migration among non-aboriginals, which is one of the major drivers of population growth in the Northwest Territories.

The gender ratio continued to become more balanced in the Northwest Territories as females represented 48.5% of the total population in 2000 compared with 48.3% in 1999 and 47.3% in 1991.

Table 1 Population Estimates, July 1, 1991 - 2000
Northwest Territories, by Selected Characteristics

	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1991
Northwest Territories	42,083	41,113	41,114	41,788	41,829	38,689
Aboriginal	21,320	20,899	20,574	20,331	20,142	18,180
Non-Aboriginal	20,763	20,214	20,540	21,457	21,687	20,509
Male	21,691	21,270	21,345	21,758	21,780	20,375
Female	20,392	19,843	19,769	20,030	20,049	18,314
0 - 4 Yrs.	3,618	3,611	3,722	3,992	4,196	4,366
5 - 9 Yrs.	4,210	4,197	4,155	4,153	4,077	3,615
10 - 14 Yrs.	3,730	3,555	3,534	3,497	3,488	3,133
15 - 19 Yrs.	3,212	3,150	3,124	3,228	3,278	3,030
20 - 29 Yrs.	6,922	6,798	6,932	7,144	7,126	8,146
30 - 39 Yrs.	7,852	7,752	7,930	8,288	8,536	7,638
40 - 49 Yrs.	6,217	6,056	5,975	6,028	5,998	4,692
50 - 59 Yrs.	3,669	3,469	3,306	3,090	2,863	2,274
60 Yrs. & Over	2,653	2,525	2,436	2,368	2,267	1,795

Table 2 Population Estimates, July 1, 1991 - 2000
Northwest Territories and Communities

	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1991
Northwest Territories	42,083	41,113	41,114	41,788	41,829	38,689
Inuvik Region	10,116	9,832	9,820	9,832	9,919	9,372
Aklavik	748	743	744	749	760	842
Colville Lake	96	97	95	94	89	73
Deline	645	620	628	644	649	594
Fort Good Hope	747	746	737	717	699	646
Fort McPherson	910	896	891	903	912	793
Holman	470	460	454	452	442	383
Inuvik	3,451	3,334	3,287	3,371	3,467	3,393
Norman Wells	882	806	870	832	847	669
Paulatuk	323	309	307	299	297	271
Sachs Harbour	153	150	161	153	140	132
Tsiigehtchic	195	183	171	171	168	151
Tuktoyaktuk	979	979	983	964	972	965
Tulita	506	498	481	473	468	396
Fort Smith Region	31,967	31,281	31,294	31,956	31,910	29,317
Detah	203	203	200	198	194	159
Enterprise	88	82	75	84	87	51
Fort Liard	524	515	498	529	539	517
Fort Providence	837	832	838	824	781	692
Fort Resolution	562	574	578	566	566	534
Fort Simpson	1,273	1,277	1,295	1,299	1,320	1,197
Fort Smith	2,625	2,548	2,481	2,559	2,561	2,616
Hay River	3,835	3,748	3,712	3,762	3,803	3,451
Hay River Reserve	268	268	272	268	265	231
Jean Marie River	X	53	51	52	53	X
Lutselk'e	377	371	354	338	325	304
Nahanni Butte	82	81	80	72	75	90
Rae Lakes	278	284	278	273	262	269
Rae-Edzo	1,864	1,832	1,808	1,769	1,760	1,613
Trout Lake	68	65	67	76	74	72
Wekweti	154	145	150	143	146	131
Wha Ti	476	459	449	439	434	416
Wrigley	183	181	179	183	173	196
Yellowknife	18,028	17,567	17,735	18,333	18,301	16,227

Note: Values less than 50 and unorganized areas are not reported; though they are included in regional and territorial totals.

Methodology Notes

Coverage Adjustment

The most recent census, conducted in 1996, was used to update all population estimates for the provinces and territories from 1971 to the present. After each census a series of coverage studies are conducted that are designed to determine if a person who should have been counted in the census was missed, counted once or more than once. The July 1, 1996 population estimate of 41,829 for the Northwest Territories was derived using results from the most recent coverage studies, along with other adjustments. In total these adjustments increased the census count for the Northwest Territories by 2,157 persons. These population figures are the current base from which all quarterly population estimates from July 1, 1996 to present are derived.

Territorial Population Estimates

On a quarterly basis Statistics Canada releases current population estimates for the Northwest Territories. These estimates are calculated using information on the demographic components of growth (births, deaths and migration) during the period, added to the 1996 census based population estimates. All estimates from July 1, 1996 forward are revised each quarter as data sources providing information on the various demographic components become more complete, as a result it takes approximately two years for a quarterly population figure to mature. In actuality, all quarterly population estimates between July 1, 1996 and July 1, 2001 will not become final until population estimates from the 2001 census are calculated and can be used to correct for any errors in the demographic components of growth during the period. It should be noted that the July 1, 2000 estimates are very preliminary.

Community Population Estimates

As noted, community population estimates are produced by the Bureau of Statistics based on the territorial population estimates released by Statistics Canada. Community population estimates in the Northwest Territories are also based on 1996 community census counts adjusted for undercoverage. Using information extracted from the vital statistics and health care registration files; the demographic components of growth measured by Statistics Canada for the Northwest Territories are allocated to each community. On an annual basis these figures will be revised to reflect changes in the demographic components as measured by Statistics Canada and changes in the information used to allocate the components of growth at a community level.

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